

JAN 10 2007

Serial No. 09/345,659

PD-990066

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) The method for automatically measuring, monitoring, and switching signals for audio satellite broadcasts of program content in AC-3 standard format to be transmitted as AES-3 signal bit streams, said audio satellite broadcasts containing meta data, variable dependent upon said program content comprises:

determining a predetermined count at which each packet in the AES-3 bit stream is to arrive, disabling a response to receipt of the packet to avoid outputting the data in the packet if it is received before said predetermined count has lapsed from receiving the start of a packet, in an AES-3 signal bit stream generated by an original source of said program content for delivery to program content receivers by a direct broadcast satellite system, said direct broadcast satellite system having an uplink system, said uplink system operable to multiplex, modulate, encode and add conditional access information to said AES-3 bit stream;

detecting if disruption occurs while packet is being received, by said uplink system;

accepting the packet of AC-3 information for enabling output after a predetermined time period plus the predetermined count from which the last packet started, if a disruption has been detected, and

determining whether said last packet comes within 10 milliseconds after an AC-3 packet was predicted to have arrived, and accepting said last packet as a trigger to provide a valid output in response to said detection.

2. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said count is a time count.

3. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said count is a word count.

Serial No. 09/345,659

PD-990066

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The invention as defined in claim 1 and further comprising wherein if another packet comes within a time period greater than 10 milliseconds but less than the predetermined number of milliseconds between packets, and preventing output by refusing to accept the packet, received in said interval between N and X for enabling output.

6. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling the status of channel status bits in multiple data streams, said multiple data streams of satellite broadcast communications operable to provide video, uncompressed stereo digital data in a first language and uncompressed stereo digital data in a least a second language wherein said video, uncompressed stereo digital data in a first language and uncompressed stereo digital data in at least a second language is program content comprises:

establishing agreement between the channel status bit buried in an AC-3 packet and the channel status bit buried within the MPEG-2 PES header structure, and

regenerating the channel status bits of the AES-3 stream continuing in the IRD for output of AC-3 to feed an external AC-3 decoder so that the channel status bits comply with the bits in the AC-3 data stream which also agrees with the serial data stream between the IRD and the decoder.

7. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 6 wherein said establishing agreement comprises parsing the AC-3 bit stream, determining the channel bit status, setting the channel bit status in MPEG-2 PES header, and generating MPEG-2 PES header in an encoder.

8. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 7 wherein said establishing agreement comprises setting the AC-3 audio stream channel status bit to be on, and recalculating the CRC bit in response to changing the channel status bit in the AC-3 audio stream.

9. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 8 wherein said setting comprises an operator manually setting said channel status bit.

Serial No. 09/345,659

PD-990066

10. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 8 which said setting comprises automatically setting said channel status bit.

11. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 6 wherein said channel status bit is a copyright status bit.

12. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 8 wherein said establishing agreement comprises setting the AC-3 audio stream channel bit to be off, and recalculating the CRC bit in response to changing the copyright bit status in the AC-3 audio stream.

13. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 12 wherein said setting comprises an operator manually setting said copyright bit.

14. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 12 which said setting comprises automatically setting said copyright bit.

15. (Currently Amended) An uplink processor for transmitting AC-3 audio streams together with video transmissions, the uplink processor incorporated within a direct satellite broadcast system comprising:

an encoder with switch logic input automatically sensing a plurality of audio signal encoded formats and redirecting signals to a plurality of corresponding encoders to process said sensed audio signal formats, said corresponding encoders operable to output data in the form of digital transport packets; and

a multiplexer, wherein said multiplexer combines said output data with conditional access data, and program guide data, said combined data being uplinked to a satellite in the direct satellite broadcast system.

16. (Previously Presented) The invention as defined in claim 15 wherein said switch logic input comprises a detector sensing compression in a serial digital interface router.

Serial No. 09/345,659

PD-990066

17.-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The invention as defined in claim 15 wherein said switch logic input comprises a compression detector.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for combining audio and video transmissions in a direct satellite broadcast system with an uplink processor having an encoder for encoding a plurality of selectable audio signal formats, said method comprising:

sensing each of a plurality of audio signal signals with encoded formats including at least one AC-3 audio signal;

redirecting each sensed signal of said plurality of audio signal encoded formats to a corresponding encoder; and

outputting data from each corresponding encoder in the form of digital transport packets; and

uplinking the digital transport packets to a satellite in the direct satellite broadcast system.

30. (Previously Presented) The invention as described in claim 29 and further comprising multiplexing said digital transport packets with conditional access data.

31. (Previously Presented) The invention as described in claim 29 and further comprising multiplexing said digital transport packets with program guide data.